Levy sugar allocations are generally issued in time except for the month of May, 1994 when they are issued on 15th April, 1994. This had caused some delay in the actual supply of sugar to fair price shops in some parts of the country. Government has taken steps to import sugar for meeting the requirements of the Public Distribution System (PDS). Arrangements have been made to ensure that there is no disruption in the supply of sugar to the consumers through the PDS.

उपभोक्ता न्यायालयों को वित्तीय सहायता

738. **श्री ईश दत्त यादव :** क्या **नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण** मंत्री 2 मई, 1994 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 5237 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार उपभोक्ता न्यायालयों को आवश्यक मूलभूत सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिए राज्यों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने का विचार रखती है ?

नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता, मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : जी, नहीं।

Price control mechanism

739. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the price control mechanism, through which Government check the price rise of essential commodities;

(b) what are the powers of his Ministry to check hoarding of essential commodities by traders;

(c) how many cases have been registered so far against the hoarding of essential commodities; and

(d) how many searches/raids were conducted so far by the Governments against the hoarders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The price control mechanism adopted to check price rise of essential commodities broadly covers strengthening of Public Distribution System, monitoring of price and availability situation; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and other regulations, and augmenting domestic supplies through imports whenever necessary. Import of sugar, and palmolein have been placed under Open General Licence.

(b) Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, The Central Government has been given power to regulate production, supply and distribution of essential commodities at fair prices. The Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution is the nodal Ministry for the purpose of Essential Commodities Act. The Central Government has delegated the power to issue control order to the States and U.Ts., who implement the E.C. Act through the control orders.

(c) No. of persons prosecuted — 1367 (as reported by the States/UTs as on 30.6.94 during the current year).

(d) No. of searches/raids conducted —41214 (as reported by the States UTs as on 30.6.94 during the current year).

Margin of profit on consumer goods by Super Bazar and Kendriya Bhandar

740. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the margin of profit charged on the sales of consumer goods and items sold to Government departments by